



Minutes

City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee

January 9, 2007

Minutes of the City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 3:30 p.m., at the Tempe City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Member Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair

Committee Member Absent:

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

City Staff Present:

Tom Abbott, Fire
Debbie Bair, Fire/Sr. Mgmt Assistant
Carlos de Leon, Deputy Pub Wrks Mgr
Travis Dray, Deputy Mgr, Recreation
Kate Hanley, TCC
Shelley Hearn, Comm Relations Mgr
Cliff Jones, Fire Chief
Don Jongewaard, Fire
Glenn Kephart, Public Wrks Mgr
Amanda Nelson, Transportation
John Osgood, Deputy Pub Wrks Mgr
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Tom Ryff, Police Chief
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev Mgr
Lisa Stark, Fire
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Pgm Spec
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs Dir

Guests Present:

Pam Goronkin, DTC
Bill Hermann, AZ Republic
Joanna Allhands, AZ Republic
Sarah Miench, AZ Republic
Joe Pospicil, citizen
Stephanie Salazar, ASU

Councilmember Ben Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Earned Income Tax Credit 0109-10

Councilmember Arredondo summarized that the City has been involved with this program for about four years and it has yielded about \$8M.

Kate Hanley summarized that in the past the program has focused on getting money back on past returns to those who are eligible and it has averaged about \$1400 per person. It's not enough just to get the tax credit, but it is important to help recipients see where savings can help serve them in the future. Staff has been working on a financial self-sufficiency program called Money Smarts.

Ms. Hanley continued that due to technology issues in using scattered sites for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, there will be one super site this year at the Tempe Schools Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill. The credit union will bring its IT staff to help on Saturdays, beginning January 27th through April 14th. The site will be closed on March 17th. Spanish translators will be on site and the site is also handicapped accessible.

DIRECTION: Staff to present this information at IRS on 1/18/07.

Agenda Item 2 – Tempe Community Fund 0109-10

Councilmember Arredondo stated that he had asked Kate Hanley to investigate a fund that had been inactive.

Kate Hanley summarized that years ago the Arizona Community Foundation was established as an incentive for communities to promote community philanthropy. The group met for about two years and then didn't meet again so it was out of compliance with the Internal Revenue Service regulations for annual disbursements. Tempe Community Council (TCC) assumed the disbursement role in 2004. Since that time, the TCC Board has indicated they would be willing to help grow the Foundation. The TCC has received about \$98K in commitments without advertising. The community appears to be ready to make this commitment to establish a strong local Tempe Community Foundation.

DIRECTION: Staff was directed to return to the Committee when ready to ask direction to move forward.

Agenda Item 3 – Discussion of Railroad Quiet Zones 0809-03

Carlos de Leon updated progress on railroad quiet zones.

- Staff is currently determining the appropriate boundaries for a quiet zone. Nine streets have controlled railroad crossings.
- A consultant is performing background study and safety analysis and will provide alternatives for the intersections, such as medians, gate arms, closures of access points.
- Staff will review alternatives and seek approval of proposed solutions with property owners, businesses, and residents whose access might be affected.
- Once finalized, staff will file a Notice of Intent to create a Quiet Zone to the State, Federal Railroad Administration, and railroad operators.
- Once approval is given, staff will move forward to final design, engineering and construction.
- Goal is to have that in place by late summer 2008.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested distributing a memo providing an update to Mayor and Council and rather than going to IRS.

DIRECTION: Staff to provide a Friday packet memo to Mayor, Council and City Manager regarding progress made with railroad quiet zones.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Code Enforcement in Trailer Parks

This item was pulled.

Agenda Item 5 – Alley Maintenance Program Expansion 0807-01

John Osgood summarized that at the previous committee meeting, staff was directed to evaluate several issue areas and return for further discussion. He outlined:

- Expansion of the City's existing uncontained/bulky item collection program
 - Current monthly schedule is among the best in the Valley.
 - Potential for expanding to a 3-week schedule.
 - Additional costs for the program and potential rate adjustment.
- Acceleration of the Alley Reconstruction Program
 - Potential for reconstructing the remainder of the City's unpaved alleys in a 4-year program.
 - Impact on the current and future CIP.
- Enhanced Education and Enforcement Efforts
 - Educate residents and owners regarding alley maintenance and solid waste code regulations and responsibilities.
 - Increased alley inspection capabilities with recent Council budget approval for Solid Waste Inspector.
 - Increased code compliance and enhanced appearance of alleys through joint City and neighborhood association commitment.

Amanda Nelson added that there are many opportunities to educate citizens.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested moving forward with the educational component. He asked staff to formulate within the next week or two a plan for outreach. He mentioned the possibility of grants to be used for alley clean-up. Staff should return to the committee and outline their program and send a memo to Council outlining their plans. The City will be having another bond election soon. Alley improvements could be included in the bond so they can get done quicker. He asked staff to determine how much money is required to make sure this can happen within four years. Not everyone has an alley, but everyone has a responsibility to make Tempe the best city possible.

Police Chief Tom Ryff added that part of the problem is a lot of illegal dumping from construction companies, etc. He suggested adding something about police involvement. The police would like to know where the illegal dumping is and we need to let the residents know that it is a violation and police can respond and get involved.

Councilmember Arredondo added that there is also a lot of tagging on fences in the alleys and possibly there are ways we could help the residents in removing it.

Pam Goronkin asked if there are signs in the alleys that denote fines for these activities.

Councilmember Arredondo responded that signs could also note who to call for help. He asked staff to incorporate that as part of the educational element.

DIRECTION:

Staff was asked to formulate within the next week or two a plan for educational outreach. Staff should then return to the committee and outline their program and also send a memo to Council outlining their plans.

Agenda Item 6 – Fire Department's Diversity Recruitment Effort 0605-01

Cliff Jones summarized the Fire Department's efforts in recruitment. The Fire Department has made many improvements in its recruitment efforts. Their goal is "to employ and retain a talented, committed and diverse employee group for the Tempe Fire Department in an effort to continue the strong legacy of service to the community and sustain the organization for the future." The challenge in the Fire Department is not just recruitment, but the recruitment of a diverse applicant pool. Recently, a recruitment was held and an application period was opened. There were 1,064 applicants for the firefighter position, 747 people tested, 528 passed the written and progressed to the first level interviews, and there remain 85 people for second-level interviews. A recruitment team, chaired by Firefighter Lisa Stark, was utilized. This has produced a very strong candidate pool in terms of diversity. Staff plans to return to the Committee in three or four months and provide an update.

Lisa Stark summarized that the recruitment team consists of 11 members, as well as a union representative and the battalion chief. She distributed a packet used in the recruiting efforts and noted that many of their efforts are ongoing, not just for the recruitment process. Recruiting efforts include:

- Print media
- Job Announcements in *La Voz* and the *Native Scene* periodical.
- Job Announcements on websites.
- Fire Department website was updated.
- Personal appearances at community colleges and other schools
- Booths at job fairs and special events
- Created a brochure and flyer highlighting the hiring process
- Display board at job fairs
- Acquired a laptop/CD player to play recruitment videos
- 15-second clip at three different movie complexes
- Spoke to various women's teams at the ASU athletic department
- Interest card for use at job fairs
- Future Cable Channel 11 spots
- Hope to be involved with ASU's online career site
- Hope to use electronic posting boards
- Hope to create PSA's on radio stations to enhance media exposure
- Hope to appear in fitness magazines
- Hope to have recruitment outside the Valley and State

Captain Don Jongewaard added that the team's role has helped the City's recruitment as a whole, not just the fire service. He attended a national firefighters human relations conference where he learned that this is an industry-wide problem. Tempe has done far more than other cities have done.

Councilmember Arredondo added that he had talked to the ASU Athletic Director and she agreed to open women's sports to the firefighters and police for recruiting efforts.

Police Chief Tom Ryff suggested partnering as a public safety recruitment team.

DIRECTION: Staff was asked to assemble a report to attach to the staff memo to outline what has been done and what is planned, and provide it to Councilmember Arredondo's aide. The Police and Fire Chiefs were asked to send a letter to the ASU Athletic Director acknowledging that they will work with women's sports for recruiting purposes and to work together on combining recruitment efforts.

Agenda Item 7 – Fire Department's Heavy Rescue Company and Staffing 0605-01

Fire Chief Cliff Jones summarized that the heavy rescue trucks are used to strengthen fire departments. As a Fire Department, the City's emergency response capabilities have not been increased since 1995. The call load is up 54%. This is a major budget thrust this year. Tempe is part of a national program to put heavy rescue trucks in the state and eleven have been designated for Arizona. Battalion Chief Tom Abbott is the point person in terms of grants for special operations and he has been instrumental in acquiring this grant for the City through the federal government. They will need to be staffed around the clock and the minimum requirement would be 21 people, which is expensive. Tempe is in critical need for an additional engine company and this will be addressed in the budget process.

Battalion Chief Abbott summarized the truck's equipment and service for the community.

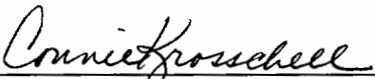
Councilmember Arredondo added that a total of 21 people will be required right away. The City has been approved on the bond and we need to get moving on the firehouse in south Tempe to continue the service. He asked staff to work with the City Manager. He encouraged everyone to go outside and look at the truck.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Alley Maintenance Program Educational Outreach Program
- Tempe Community Fund

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner



Connie Krosschell
Acting City Clerk